

- c: holding said membrane at the elevated temperature for a predetermined interval, wherein the predetermined interval has been selected to permit the desired percentage conversion of amorphous to crystalline state; and
- d: returning the membrane to ambient temperature.

**Claim 16** (twice amended) The method of claim 12 wherein the percentage conversion of crystalline state is determined using X-ray spectroscopy.

**Claim 25** (amended) A method of operating a polymer electrolyte membrane fuel cell at elevated temperatures equipped with a membrane conditioned by claim 12 comprising supplying an oxygen containing gas at the cathode and supplying at the anode a fuel selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, reformate, methanol and ethanol.

Cancel claims 14 and 24.

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks presented herein.

The claims in the application are claims 12, 13, 15, 16, 18 to 23, 25 and 26, all other claims having been cancelled.